FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
15-11	ORLEANS	B	EAS.166

NR HD 1999

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
Eastham Center

Address: 2555 State Highway

Historic Name: Doane Family Summer Cottage
Beach Plum Motor Lodge

Uses: Present: motel

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1916, ca. 1946

Source: deeds, vital records, visual assessment

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/1 story gable block

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:
Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Motel unit, ca. 1946

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.55

Setting: The house and associated buildings are situated on the State Highway amid dense roadside development comprised of historic properties, more recent summer cottage development and civic and commercial buildings.

Photograph

View from SE.

Locus Map (north at top)

Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Doane Family Summer Cottage, built ca. 1916, is a one-story wood frame seasonal dwelling designed in a traditional style with a gable roof, center chimney and a three-bay front façade with a center entrance and pedimented porch flanked by paired windows; a shed dormer creates a second story. A sunroom is attached to the south end of the building. A one-story wood frame motel building with five units was constructed in the rear of the property in ca. 1946. The house and outbuilding are centered in a half-acre lot set back from the highway behind a large yard. A driveway enters the south end of the frontage abd bends around the rear of the house and in front of the motel units.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house now numbered 2555 State Highway stands on the former homestead of Elijah E. Knowles (1811-91), a son of Harding Knowles (1779-1829) and his first wife Margery (1779-1816). The 1880 Eastham map depicts Knowles's store roughly on this property, and it is likely it was replaced with this dwelling in the early 1900s. By 1885 Knowles and his wife Tabitha Holbrook Knowles (1823-1917) had moved to Orleans and were constructing a building to house a variety store, and four years later he sold four acres, his house, barn, and outbuildings on the west side of the state highway and north of what became Depot Road to Stillman P. Doane (1841-1915), an Eastham native and by then a wholesale fish merchant in Providence, Rhode Island.[1] Knowles had owned property at 10 Depot Road (EAS.63) on the northwest corner with the State Highway, just south of 2555 State Highway, since the late 1850s.

Stillman Pratt Doane was the son of John Doane (1815-93) and Abigail Cobb Doane, and in 1863 he married Catherine Roena Mayo (1841-1915), the daughter of Freeman Doane Mayo (1802-88) and his wife Bathsheba Smith (1802-82). He was initially a mariner and a fisherman, but by 1870 he had moved with his family to Providence, where he first worked as a teamster. By 1875 he had a retail fish market, and by 1900 he was a wholesale fish dealer. By the early 1880s they had begun to spend parts of their summers in Eastham, probably at 10 Depot Road; this property was probably what Cape newspapers referred to as "Doane Villa."

Stillman P. and Catherine R. Mayo Doane both died in 1915, he in May and she is July. Three of their five daughters have lived into adulthood—Louise Mayo, born in 1868 and unmarried; Kittie (Catherine) Roena, born in 1878; and Hattie Sarah, born in 1884. In 1906 Kittie married Baptist cleric Phanuel Bishop Covell, born in 1881 in Rehoboth, and the couple lived in Boston, Marblehead, and Worcester for most of their lives. Hattie married Rhode Island native and bank teller Walter Hazard Watson in Florida in 1913, and by 1920 they were living in Providence with his mother and sister and Hattie's sister Louise Mayo Doane.

In September 1916, Hattie Doane Watson and Kittie Doane Covell deeded the four-acre parcel bordering Depot Road and State Highway to their sister Louise Mayo Doane, and the next day she deeded the western part of the parcel to her sister Kittie, then living in Marblehead. Louise M. Doane died in 1927, and two years later Hattie Watson, acting as administrator for her father's estate, sold the remaining three acres to her brother-in-law Phanuel B. Covell, who deeded it back to Watson and her husband Walter the next day. The Covells and their children Dorothy and Stillman Doane Covell and the Watsons both visited Eastham often, but whether one of them occupied 10 Depot Road and the other this house is unclear. The 10 Depot Road property was sold out of the family in June 1930, but the Doane daughters and their families at various times owned 2555 State Highway until 1946, when the Watsons sold it to Wesley B. Moore.[2] Wesley Bertram Moore (1916-2003) was an Eastham native, a son of house builder Harvey T. Moore and his wife Alice LeCount. He served in the Army in France during World War II and afterward married Margaret McGinn (1920-83) of Chatham. It would have been the Moores who built the motel unit behind the house and operated the summer colony now known as Beach Plum Motor Lodge.

---

[1] Elijah E. Knowles, Orleans, to S. P. Doane, Providence RI, 8 Sept 1888, BCD 196:108; "Orleans," *Yarmouth Register*, 13 June 1885, 1.
[2] Hattie Doane Watson, Providence RI, and Kattie R. Doane Covell, Marblehead, to Louise Mayo Doane, Providence RI, 15 September 1916, BCD 346:40; Louise Mayo Doane, Providence RI, to Kitte R. Doane Covell, Marblehead, 16 September 1916, BCD 346:48; Hattie D. Watson, Providence RI, administrator estate Stillman P. Doane, Providence RI, to Phanuel B. Covell, Worcester, 12 September 1929, BCD 468:220; Phanuel B. Covell, Worcester, to Walter H. and Hattie D. Watson, Providence RI, 13 September 1929, BCD 468:222; Hattie D. and Walter H. Watson, Providence RI, to Wesley B. Moore, 9 May 1946, BCD 647:430:.

The Moores owned the property until 1972, when they sold it to Dorothy A. Ohman; she in turn sold it the next day to Rodney M. and Mary R. Jaros of Chappaqua, New York. In 1978 the Jaroses sold it to Gloria Moll of Orleans, the owner of record in 2020.[3]

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds, Land Court Records, and Subdivision Maps.
Barnstable Patriot Archives. Sturgis Library Digital Newspaper Archive, https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/APA/Sturgis/#panel=home.
Dunham's 1929 Eastham (Mass.) Street Directory.
Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.
MHC. National Register Nomination Form for the Eastham C enter Historic District, 1999.
Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 1901. South Framingham, MA: A. E. Foss Publishing Co., 1901.
Schofield, Marilyn C., and Roberta Cornish. *Images of America: Eastham*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View of motel units from SE.

[3] Wesley B. and Margaret M. Moore to Dorothy A. Ohman, Schoolhouse Road, 8 February 1972, BCD 1603:227; Dorothy Ohmann, Schoolhouse Road, to Rodney M. and Mary R. Jaros, Chappaqua NY, 9 February 1972, BCD 1603:229; Rodney M. and Mary R. Jaros, Chappaqua NY, to Gloria Moll, Orleans, 23 December 1978, BCD 2847:227.